



Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Staff Report June 3, 2014

Date: May 23, 2014
To: Recreation and Parks Commission
From: Jeff Mann, Parks Manager
Subject: Review, discussion and potential direction for a preferred design for Sierra Vista Park

Summary: Staff worked with community stakeholders, neighbors and recreational interest groups to develop conceptual plans for the renovation of Sierra Vista Park. The City collected over 760 website surveys from the general public, held two public open houses and hosted a design workshop to develop possible conceptual plans to repurpose the former golf course into a community park site. Staff recommends that the Commission provide direction on a preferred alternative plan for additional public input and ultimate approval.

Background: In 2013, the City received a Technical Assistance Grant from the National Park Service (NPS) through the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. Through this grant, the NPS acts as our planning consultant to develop a conceptual plan to repurpose the former Northgate Golf Course into Sierra Vista Park. The City has also applied for and received preliminary notice of award of a Recreational Trails Grant in the amount of \$134,500 from Nevada State Parks to begin restoration of the former cart paths into a functional perimeter trail system.

Discussion: Staff from PRCS, Washoe County Parks and our NPS consultant worked with a technical advisory group (TAG) comprised of staff from the City, Washoe County and the Nevada Land Trust. The group developed goals and objectives for the site plan and conducted an empirical public survey gathered through the City's website to gauge public opinion on the future design and use of the site. Using the survey results and the goals, staff held a design workshop on April 25 & 26 with the TAG and various Stakeholders comprised of persons from the various outdoor recreational interest groups, conservation groups, the Friends Group and neighboring homeowner's associations to develop potential conceptual plans for the site. Commissioners Van Noy and Stille served on the Stakeholder Committee representing the Recreation & Parks Commission. Eight landscape architects from the local chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects volunteered their time to create sketches of each design. The workshop also included opportunities for participation from the general public on each day.

The workshop produced three conceptual plans, each with a different overall theme. See attached matrix which highlights the various features of each plan. These plans are all based on the same base map, which includes a perimeter trail system and restoration and/or protection of the natural drainage ways through the park. The three themes are:

1. "Active Recreation" - emphasizing site appropriate outdoor recreational opportunities based on the survey results and best utilizing the natural topography of the site.
2. "Art and Nature" - emphasizing restoration of the site to promote artistic designs and opportunities for conservation and education.
3. "Neighborhood Park" - emphasizing traditional neighborhood park features with opportunities for active and passive recreation.

The Active Recreation and Neighborhood Park themes had many similar features, although in slightly different layouts. Following the public workshop, the TAG members met and consolidated similar elements of these two designs into a single design with an outdoor recreation theme.

During the Recreation & Parks Commission meeting, staff will present an overview of the design process to date and more fully describe the two proposed composite park design themes and their features. The Commission and public will then have an opportunity to identify features on the plans which provide the best use of the site, offer opportunities for revenue generation, promote partnerships for operations, maintenance and park stewardship. After this exercise, staff requests that the Commission select a preferred alternative for additional public review before final approval at a future date by the Commission and City Council.

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications at this time. The development of the perimeter trail system will have little impact on current park maintenance operations. The final selection of a conceptual plan will have implications for ongoing operations and maintenance but those are unknown at this time. Pending further Council direction, any future development will not likely occur until partner agencies or organizations are available to assist with operations and maintenance.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Commission select a preferred alternative plan.

Proposed Motion: I move that we recommend _____ theme as the preferred alternative plan for Sierra Vista Park.

Attachments:

1. Sierra Vista Plan Comparison Matrix
2. Sierra Vista Park Public Survey Summary Document
3. Sierra Vista Park Vision and Goals

Attachment 1 – Plan comparison matrix

Sierra Vista Plan Comparison

Plan/Feature	Art and Nature	Neighborhood Park	Active Recreation
<i>Perimeter Trail</i>	Recycled Paths, multi use	Recycled Paths, parallel additional trails	Multi-use, figure 8
<i>Additional Trails</i>	Thematic trails by zones	ADA trails, Meadow trails, arboretum trail, etc	Parallel, bmx, cyclecross, jogging, ability level trails
<i>Northern Area</i>	Nature Loop, birding	Disc Golf, Dog Park, revegetation, arboretum	Area reserved for future expansion, trails
<i>Clubhouse</i>	Education, Events, Learning, Sustainable	Community center: Indoor Rec, Classes, Events, small food concession, food trucks	Commercial lease, events, learning
<i>Maintenance Building</i>	Plant Propagation	Same use	Archery
<i>Driving Range</i>	Open Meadow/Art Loop	Large meadow, irrigated, small concert area/amphitheater	Archery, mini bmx
<i>Southern Area</i>	Sheep, restoration, interpretive	Mountain Bike	Disc golf
<i>Dam</i>	Remove/reveg	Fishing pond	Fishing or reveg
<i>Dry Creekbeds</i>	Restore, interpret, bird loop	Restore, revegetate	Revegetate
<i>Playgrounds</i>	Nature based	Series around clubhouse	Several in group events area
<i>Reserve Picnic areas</i>		yes	yes
<i>Dog Parks</i>		yes	yes
<i>Entry Feature</i>	Colossal	Defining	Feature
<i>Volleyball</i>		yes	
<i>Court sports</i>		yes	
<i>BMX</i>			All levels
<i>Parking</i>		Somerset, new 70 space	Somerset, future north area, neighborhood off Gleneagle DR
<i>Connection to Peavine Mtn</i>		To west	To East